



7
1948

Spennymoor

Urban District Council

REPORT

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health



Chairman of the Council, 1947-48.—Councillor J. C. Glasper, J.P.

Vice-Chairman — Councillor T. W. Marley.

Chairman of Health Committee — Councillor G. H. Barrett.

Vice-Chairman — Councillor J. Kelly, J.P.

Chairman of the Housing Committee — Councillor T. W. Marley.

Vice-Chairman — Councillor K. Schiff.

— *Councillors* —

G. Buckton, F. Coverdale, W. Elliott, B. Franks, W. Hirst,
T. Liddle, W. Lindsay, T. Mulloy, P. McKernon,
T. N. Moulton, G. S. Rose, Mrs Dobson, T. Sugden,
T. Steel, G. Thompson, H. Watcham.

— *Public Health Officers of the Authority* —

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :
Dr S. V. Tinsley, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.

Sanitary Inspectors :

M. W. Swales, M.R. San. I., A.M.I.S.E.
G. Blenkinsop, M.R. San. I.

Clerical Assistant :

F. Young.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Spennymoor

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary work of the District during the year ending 31st March, 1948.

S. V. Tinsley,

Medical Officer of Health.

Population :—

The Registrar General's figures calculated to the middle of 1947 give the resident population of the District as 18,870. This figure represents an increase of 160 upon last year, and if the same rate of increase is maintained we will reach our 1939 population figure of 19,040 next year.

Area :—

The District covers 7,494 acres and includes the villages of Middlestone Moor, Byers Green and Kirk Merrington.

Inhabited Houses :—

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District according to our records at the end of March 1948 was 5,321. Of this number 147 were newly constructed and 60 "Clearance" houses were vacated and demolished in preparation for new property.

Rateable Value :—

The Rateable Value of the District is £71,551 and the product of a penny rate £273.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births 1947-48.

<u>Live Births</u>	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	227	205	432	23.95.
Illegitimate	10	10	20	
	237	215	452	

<u>Still Births</u>	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	4	5	9	.47
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	4	5	9	

For comparative purposes the rates are given for the two previous years and for the two years immediately prior to the war :—

1937.	Live Births	318	giving a Birth Rate of	17.20	per	1,000.
	Still Births	16	„ „ „ „ „	.86	„ „	
1938	Live Births	319	„ „ „ „ „	16.50	„ „	
	Still Births	9	„ „ „ „ „	.46	„ „	
1946.	Live Births	356	„ „ „ „ „	19.70	„ „	
	Still Births	14	„ „ „ „ „	.77	„ „	
1947.	Live Births	454	„ „ „ „ „	24.26	„ „	
	Still Births	20	„ „ „ „ „	1.06	„ „	

Although the Birth Rate is .31 per 1,000 lower than last year it is a considerable increase upon our pre war figures. The Still Birth Rate is however an improvement upon the previous year.

Comparison with National Statistics are also satisfactory and extracts are enumerated as follows :

	Spennymoor District	England & Wales	26 County Boroughs	148 Smaller Towns.
Births	23.95	20.50	23.30	22.20
Still Births	.47	.50	.62	.54

Deaths—1947-48

	Male	Female	Total	Rate
Deaths	112	112	224	11·87
Infantile	12	5	17	37·61
Mortality				per 1,000 births

Comparisons are given with the pre-war and post-war periods

1937 Deaths. 236 deaths giving a rate of 12·80 per 1000
 Infantile 24 „ „ „ „ „ 75·47 per 1000
 Mortality. births.

1938 Deaths. 239 deaths giving a rate of 12·30 per 1000
 Infantile 17 „ „ „ „ „ 53·03 per 1000
 Mortality. births

1946 Deaths. 213 deaths giving a rate of 11·78 per 1000
 Infantile 16 „ „ „ „ „ 43·24 per 1000
 Mortality. births.

1947 Deaths. 233 deaths giving a rate of 12·45 per 1000
 Infantile 21 „ „ „ „ „ 48·68 per 1000
 Mortality. births.

This is an improvement of ·58 in the Death Rate upon last year, also considerable improvement is shown in the Infantile Mortality Rate.

National Statistics are as follows :

	Spennymoor District	England & Wales.	26 County Boroughs	148 Smaller Towns
Deaths	11·87	12·00	13·00	11·90
Infantile				
Mortality	37·61	41·00	47·00	36·00

Causes of Death.		Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	...	112	112
Tuberculosis of respiratory system...		9	6
Other tubercular diseases	...	1	1
Acute infectious encephalitis	..	1	
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	..	2	5
Cancer of the breast	...		5
Cancer of all other sites	...	8	8
Diabetes	...	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	14	11
Heart disease	..	23	34
Other diseases of circulatory system...		3	1
Bronchitis	...	9	7
Pneumonia	...	10	4
Other respiratory diseases	...	2	
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	3	
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	1	
Apendicitis	...	1	
Other digestive diseases	...	3	3
Nephritis	...	2	4
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis...			1
Premature birth	...	2	1
Congenital malformation	...	2	2
Road Traffic Accidents	...		1
Other violent causes	...	2	3
All other causes	...	11	12

Tuberculosis 1947-48.

The following cases remained upon the Register at the end of the Year.

	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
Males	68	37
Females	72	38
	140	75

These figures show a slight increase in the number of Pulmonary cases and a small reduction in Non Pulmonary cases upon the Register. The deaths from this disease show a reduction of 29.41% upon the previous year. The number however is still high and represents 8% of the cases upon the Register at the beginning of the year.

The number of known Tuberculosis cases in the District represents 1.14% of the Population.

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-61
Scarlet Fever		1	2	2	3	24	9	5	1		
Diphtheria							3				
Tuberculosis Males											
Pulmonary						1	2	2	4	1	5
Non Pulmonary						1		1			
Females											
Pulmonary	1					2	1	1	6		2
Non Pulmonary						1			1		

Tabular Statement of the Notification of other Infectious Diseases
in the District during the Year.

Disease	Cases Notified
Whooping Cough	32
Erysipelas	5
Pneumonia	27
Measles	83
Meningitis	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4
Poliomyelitis	7
Scabies	50

Diphtheria Immunisation

The position of the District, with respect to the Immunisation of the Child Population at the end of 1947, is tabulated below:-

	Under 5 yrs.	5-15 yrs
(1) Estimated number of Children residing in the Area, 31st December, 1947.	1,800	3,020
(2) Total number of Children Immunised 31st December, 1947.	396	1,811
(3) Percentage of Child Population considered to be Immunised at 31st December, 1947	22%	59.96%
(4) Number of Children Immunised during the Year, 1947.	144	40

During the year the estimated Child Population of the District has been amended and this has caused an increase in the percentage of Immunised Children between 5 and 15 years. The response to all invitations to parents for the Immunisation of their Children, continues to be most disappointing. With the marked diminution in the number of cases of diphtheria during the recent years, the awareness of the Public to the dangers of this disease, is dulled. This is most noticeable with young parents who fail to respond to repeated invitations for the children to be Immunised.

Scabies.

A considerable decrease in the number of cases notified during the year has been recorded 50 cases as against 116 cases during the previous year. The Council's Cleansing Centre in Cheapside has dealt with all cases sent in by the Doctors from this District, also cases from the Sedgefield R. D. Council Area. During the year, 98 cases have been treated and 202 Treatments given.

The majority of the cases treated at the Centre are of a mild type, indicating the efficiency of our arrangements for treatment during this post-war period.

Ambulance Service.

In July of this year the Council will relinquish control of this service, the work being taken over by the County Council. From the inauguration of this service at the end of the War it has proved an outstanding success, and has fulfilled a long felt want in the District. The Council can be proud of a service which has materially contributed to saving many lives in the District by prompt and careful removal to hospital during serious illness. Many expressions of appreciation are received from the users of our vehicles, and it is hoped that the good work of this service will be further extended by the County Authority when it becomes responsible. The service will be free under the National Health Service Act. During the year 1,008 cases were removed to and from hospitals in the surrounding districts, 26,190 miles were covered, and the receipts for the works amounted to £709. 17s. 10d. Although 25% more cases were carried this year than in the previous year, the receipts for this work are lower.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

SUMMARY OF NOTICES AND WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT, DURING THE YEAR.

I Public Health Acts.

		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notices.
Dwelling-houses } Structural and Schools } Defects.		111	33	78
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		3	—	3
House } Defective Traps ...		1	—	1
Drainage } Other Faults ...		17	—	17
Water Supply		3	4	3
Animals Improperly Kept ...		1	—	1
Totals		136	37	103

II. Water, Food and Drugs.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	4
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III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	... 56
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IV. General

Number of New Houses erected during Year	... 194
Number of New Houses occupied during Year	... 155
Ashpit-privies converted into Waterclosets	... 1
Ash-closets converted to Water-closets	... 42
Total number of Water-closets in the District	... 1,545
Total number of Ash-closets in the District	... 3,666
Total number of Ashpit-privies in the District	... 84

Infestation :

The Council have continued their policy of Fumigation of all Tenant's Furniture in transit, before occupying Council and North Eastern Housing Association property. This work has been carried out most efficiently by the London Fumigation

Company using hydrogen cyanide as a fumigant. The Council's insistence of the need for this fumigation has been amply borne out by the condition of the Van after many of these removals. Some very serious cases of bug infestation were found in the tenants removed from the "Clearance" property, in the George Street areas.

During the year, 150 fumigations and removals were carried out by the above method, and many fumigations were carried out at the request of the owners.

Rodent Control :

The Council is still carrying out the powers delegated to it by the County Council in this connection. The part time Rodent Operator has carried out inspections and treatments of all likely sources of infestation in the District. We are not aware of any cases of serious infestation in the District, and as we have the goodwill and co-operation of the public, any source of infestation is dealt with expeditiously and effectively.

The work of the Rodent Operator is tabulated below :

Premises Treated	Estimated Kill	Bodies Found
Shops & Business Premises	14	266
Private Property	23	144
Refuse Tips etc.	7	

Water Supply.

The Durham County Water Board is responsible for the supply of Water to the whole of the District, with the exception of certain isolated property.

Apart from certain small areas where the mains require attention, the supply of water is adequate and excellent in purity.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council's main works at Tudhoe deals with the sewage of the greater part of the Area. Kirk Merrington is drained to works at Leasingthorne, operated by the Bishop

Auckland U.D. Council under arrangement. The sewage from the village of Byers Green is dealt with at its own small works. The Council's pre-war scheme for the resewering of certain areas of the District, is still in abeyance. Flooding of private property during storms has frequently been experienced, also a considerable number of choked drains from private property have been reported and cleared.

Refuse and Salvage collections.

The whole of the Urban District is cleansed by direct labour, using four Lorries and five Carts for this work, with an additional Lorry engaged solely in the collection of Trade Refuse and Trade Salvage. The Council have now an adequate fleet of vehicles for this work. Many of the back streets are very narrow and difficult to cleanse, and except by the purchase of special vehicles, the Council cannot employ mechanical transport only.

1,545 Dustbins and 3,666 ashclosets are emptied weekly and 84 ashpit Privies once in every three weeks. This refuse is taken to Council Tips situated at Tudhoe Colliery, Rock Road, Spennymoor and Byers Green. It has not been possible to resume the large scale conversion of these dry receptacles; the Council however, make a grant of £3-10s-0d towards the cost of each conversion. The elimination of these very insanitary closets will be a major sanitary improvement in the District, the work of refuse collection will be improved, and the cost materially reduced.

During the year only 43 ashclosets were converted to the "Water Carriage System". I believe the high cost of these conversions is acting as a deterrent to owners in carrying out this work.

Salvage is also collected at the same time as the refuse, sacks being used for this purpose upon each vehicle. During the Year the following materials were collected and sold:-

	Tons	Cwts
Waste Paper	89	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rags & String	1	
Metal	10	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bones	—	5
Waste Food	12	—
Bottle & Jars	—	18

Housing

For information, the Council's pre-war and post-war Housing Programmes are summarised below:-

Period 1935-1936, the Council dealt with by Clearance.
175 Houses

Period 1937-1939, Under Section 25. Housing Act 1936.

the Council dealt with 506 Houses

Under Section 11. Housing Act 1936.

the Council dealt with 51 Houses

Period 1945-1948, North Eastern Housing Association

Houses erected 112 Houses

Urban Council Houses erected 166 Houses

Tenants removed from Clearance

Property, demolished for New

Housing Sites 62 Houses

The Council's immediate building programme provides for the erection of the following:-

Park Estate	88 Houses
George Street, Developement Estate	...	108 Houses
York Hill Estate	128 Houses
Tudhoe Moor Estate	168 Houses
Middlestone Moor Estate	...	72 Houses
Kirk Merrington Estate	...	50 Houses

From the opening of the Council's waiting list for Houses in December 1946, approximately 1,500 applications have been received. A large proportion of the smaller type houses are required for couples married during the War and living as Subtenants.

The Council's method of allocation provides for a "Points" Scheme. The greatest number of points are awarded for overcrowding with varying numbers of points for sub-tenancy, Tuberculosis, sub-standard or clearance properly and previous applications. This scheme has proved fairly successful in operation. The Council has however, certain amendments under consideration which will improve the working and give fairer treatment to many applicants.

Factories Act, 1937

A number of visits have been made to Factories registered under Part 1. of the above Act, to secure compliance with the various provisions of the Act operated by the Local Authority.

S. V. TINSLEY,
Medical Officer of Health

M. W. SWALES,
Sanitary Inspector.

